SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
75¢
553
MAR. 84
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE MAN OF STEEL JOINS DC's FORGOTTEN HEROES ON THE STRANGEST MISSION EVER!
THE WORLD AT TIME'S END!

THE CITY IS METROPOLIS; THE BUILDING IS THE INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF ABRAXAS, INCORPORATED...
abraxas
THE MAIN PRODUCT: DESTRUCTION.
AND THIS IS VANDAL SAVAGE, THE MAN WHO CREATED ABRAXAS, INC. TO SERVE HIS OWN TWISTED DESIRES...
YOU SCIENTISTS HAVE DONE ME PROUD. MY PLANS PROCEED EXACTLY AS I HAD ORDERED...
...AND SUPERMAN, ONCE EARTH'S GREATEST HERO, WILL NOW SOW THE SEEDS OF ITS DESTRUCTION!
INFRARED EXAMINATION PROVES HE IS SPREADING THE PREHISTORIC SPORES ALL THROUGHOUT METROPOLIS PARK...
...WHICH WE'VE SEALED IN AN IMPENETRABLE FORCE-FIELD.
THE SPORES WILL GIVE ROOT TO PLANT LIFE THE LIKES OF WHICH THIS PLANET HAS NOT SEEN IN FIVE MILLION YEARS.
DR. CRUISE, TELL ME IF ALL ELSE PROCEEDS AS PLANNED.
S-4268
DOCTOR, THAT IS ALL I CAN EXPECT.
AS YOU KNOW, SIR, WE DID NOT BUILD THE TIME PYRAMIDS. WE CAN'T EVEN GUESS WHO DID...
...OR WHAT THEIR ACTUAL PURPOSE MIGHT BE. WE CAN ONLY TAP THEIR POWER AND USE IT AS YOU HAVE COMMANDED.
THEN, IF ALL GOES WELL--

ACTION COMICS 553 (USPS 004-480) Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103. Second class postage paid at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to DC Comics Inc., Subscription Dept., PO Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. Annual subscription rate $9.00. Outside USA $10.00. Copyright © 1983 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Printed in USA. Advertising Representative: Sanford Schwarz & Co., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017. (212) 391-1400.
KINGSUBACH - DCP
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Communications Company

--THE PLANET EARTH WILL SOON BE RETURNED TO PREHISTORIC JUNGLE!
THE VERY SAME TROPICAL PARADISE INTO WHICH I WAS BORN 50,000 YEARS AGO.
NOW WE MOVE FROM TROUBLE-PLAGUED METROPOLIS TO THE SEEMING SERENITY OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS...
BUT, AS WE'VE SHOWN COUNTLESS TIMES BEFORE... LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING...
YOU'RE SHOCKED AT WHAT I JUST SAID? OF COURSE SUPERMAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN A HERO.
IN YOUR MIND, HE COULD NEVER SEEK WHAT VERY WELL MAY BE THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL MANKIND.
BUT THAT IS HAPPENING! AND THAT'S WHY I'VE ASKED YOU HERE!
HEROES ALL, ALTHOUGH NOT AS WELL KNOWN AS SUPERMAN, BATMAN, OR MANY OTHERS.
RICK FLAG, LEADER OF THE TOP-SECRET MILITARY TEAM KNOWN AS THE SUICIDE SQUAD...
DANE DORRANCE, THE BRAINS BEHIND THE SEA DEVILS...
CAVE CARSON, THE INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN GEOLOGIST...
ANIMAL MAN, WHO CAN ASSUME THE POWERS OF ANY LIVING BEAST...
DOLPHIN, FROM SOME MYSTERIOUS UNDERWATER WORLD WE KNOW NOTHING OF...
CONGO BILL, THE WORLD-FAMOUS HUNTER...
...AND, OF COURSE, RIP HUNTER, THE TIME-MASTER.
MY FRIENDS, YOU ARE OUR PLANET'S ONLY HOPE!
2

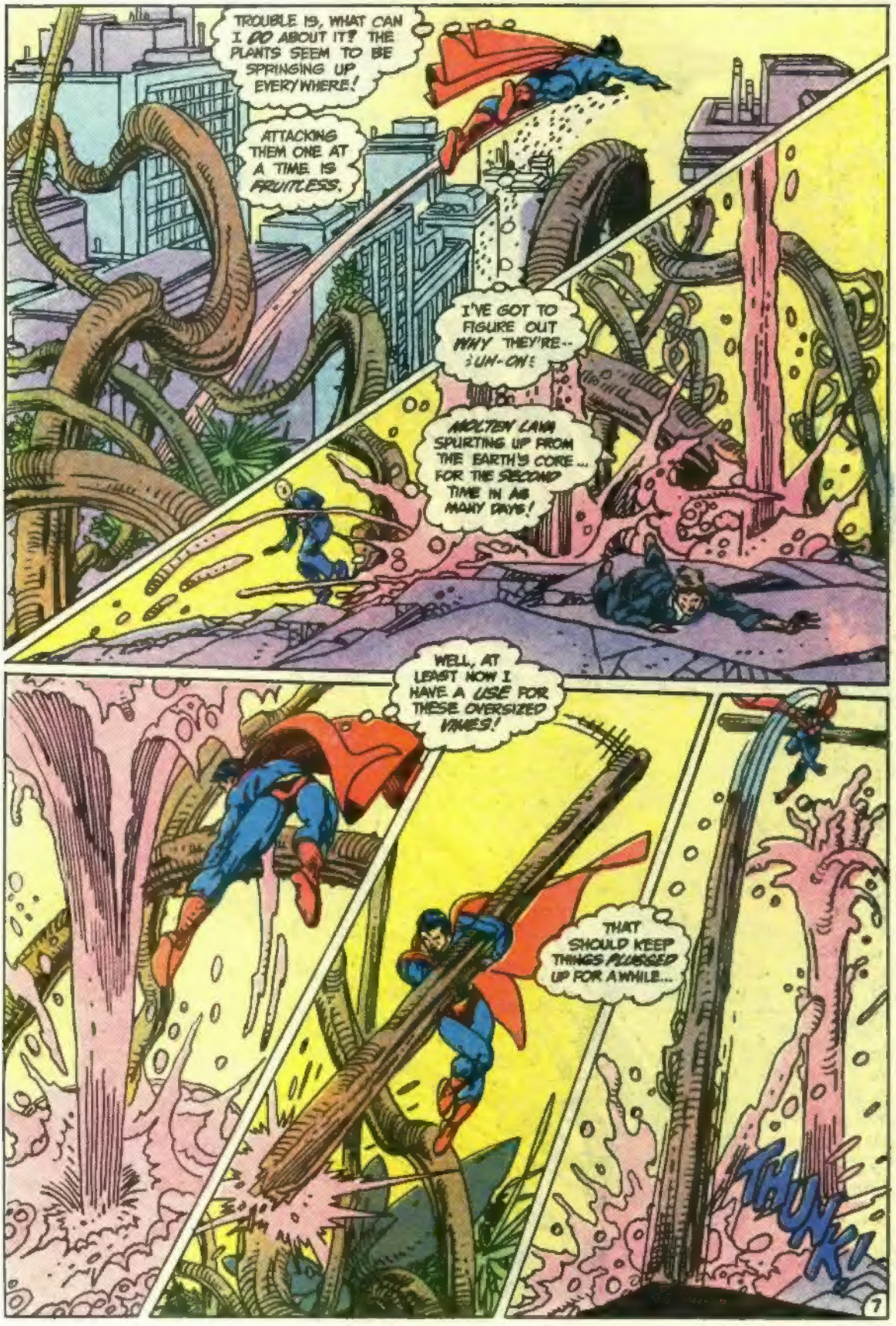
AN' YOU SAY YOU'VE LIVED FOREVER, THAT YOU'RE AN IMMORTAL MAN...
OKAY, MAYBE I BUY THAT... BUT I CAN'T BUY WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN' ABOUT SUPERMAN.
I AGREE, ANIMAL MAN. SUPERMAN AND I HAVE WORKED TOGETHER SEVERAL TIMES.
THERE'S NO WAY THAT MAN COULD TURN VILLAINOUS.
NOT INTENTIONALLY, BILL, BUT PLEASE... LISTEN TO MY STORY...
...A STORY THAT BEGAN 50,000 YEARS AGO, NOT ONLY MY STORY, BUT THE STORY OF A MAN CALLED VANDAL SAVAGE...
IT WAS THE TIME OF THE CAVEMAN, A TIME OF SAVAGERY, OF PRIMAL LUSTS AND POWER...
"VANDAR ADG WAS A TERRIBLE WARRIOR, PERHAPS THE MOST EVIL WHO HAD EVER LIVED. AND I--I WAS HIS ENEMY...
"WE HAD ENGAGED IN BATTLE MANY TIMES... AND, AS ALWAYS BEFORE, HE KILLED MY MEN WITH SAVAGE RAGE...
"WE--HE AND I-- WOULD HAVE FOUGHT OUR BATTLE HAD NOT FATE, IN THE FORM OF SOME MYSTERIOUS FIREBALL, INTERVENED...
3

"BATHED IN UNEARTHLY RADIATION, VANDAR ADG BECAME IMMORTAL... FROM THAT MOMENT ON, HE WOULD NEVER DIE...
"WHILE I... ALTHOUGH NOT DIRECTLY HIT BY THE RADIATION, FOUND MYSELF CHANGED AS WELL...
"I FOUND A JEWEL FROM THE FIREBALL. I TOOK IT AS AN ORNAMENT, WORE IT FROM THAT MOMENT ON...
"...AND LEARNED THAT, IN A FASHION, I, TOO, BECAME IMMORTAL.
"VANDAL SAVAGE, AS HE NOW CALLED HIMSELF, LIVED THROUGH THE AGES. HE WAS KING IN ANCIENT SUMER, HE BUILT PYRAMIDS IN EGYPT, RAVAGED CITIES AS GENGHIS KHAN...
"AND THROUGHOUT ALL THAT TIME I WAS HIS GREATEST ENEMY."
4

CONTINUED ON 3 RF PAGE FOLLOWING

YOU SEE, ALTHOUGH I'VE LIVED FOREVER, MY IMMORTALITY WAS SEWN FROM WHOLLY DIFFERENT CLOTH.
IF KILLED, I WOULD DIE LIKE ANY MAN. BUT THEN I WAS INSTANTLY REBORN...
...REBORN INTO SOMEONE ELSE, SOMEONE NEW -- SOMETIMES YOUNG, SOMETIMES OLD -- BUT ALWAYS SOMEONE DIFFERENT.
THUS IN THESE DIFFERENT FORMS I FOLLOWED VANDAL SAVAGE, TRYING TO RID THE WORLD OF HIS EVIL.
OKAY, OKAY, SO YOU CAN SPIN A STORY THAT WOULD MAKE THE BROTHERS GRIMM PROUD. WHAT'S THAT GOTTA DO WITH SUPERMAN?
I HAVE LEARNED THAT VANDAL SAVAGE HAS INFECTED SUPERMAN WITH A TIME-SEED WHICH WILL TURN THE EARTH INTO A PREHISTORIC NIGHTMARE!
IF THIS GROWTH IS ALLOWED TO FLOURISH, IT WILL, QUITE FRANKLY, MEAN THE END OF EVERYTHING!
I TRIED CONTACTING THE JUSTICE LEAGUE BUT WAS UNABLE TO. I NEEDED PEOPLE WORKING WITH ME... PEOPLE WHO HAD ABILITIES OF THEIR OWN.
ALL OF YOU FORGOTTEN HEROES FIT THAT CATEGORY.
I NEED YOU. THE WORLD NEEDS YOU. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE'VE GOT TO STOP SUPERMAN BEFORE HE DESTROYS EVERYTHING WE HOLD DEAR.
ARE YOU WITH ME?
AS ONE ALL CHIME IN AGREEMENT!

ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
NO FORCE-FIELD GENERATED BY ALIEN SCIENCE CAN LONG CONTAIN THE POWER OF SUPERMAN...
MIGHTY MUSCLES PUMMEL THE INVISIBLE FIELD UNTIL IT FINALLY SHATTERS...
...FREEING A VERY ANGRY MAN OF STEEL...
ALTHOUGH I FIND NATURE MORE PLEASANT TO LOOK AT THAN BUILDINGS--
--THIS IS PATENTLY RIDICULOUS!
THE WORLD AT TIME'S END!
MARV WOLFMAN WRITER
GIL KANE ARTIST
BEN ODA LETTERER
ANTHONY TOLLIN COLORIST
JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITOR
6


TROUBLE IS, WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT? THE PLANTS SEEM TO BE SPRINGING UP EVERYWHERE!
ATTACKING THEM ONE AT A TIME IS FRUITLESS.
I'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT WHY THEY'RE-- ;UH-OH!
MOLTEN LAVA SPURTING UP FROM THE EARTH'S CORE... FOR THE SECOND TIME IN AS MANY DAYS!
WELL, AT LEAST NOW I HAVE A USE FOR THESE OVERSIZED VINES!
THAT SHOULD KEEP THINGS PLUGGED UP FOR A WHILE...
THUK!
7

MAYBE I CAN TAKE THE TIME AND SORT OUT THIS MESS.
CITIES JUST DON'T REVERT TO SOME PREHISTORIC TIME WITHOUT CAUSE...
...AND FORCE-FIELDS DON'T SUDDENLY APPEAR WITHOUT SOMEONE INSTIGATING THEM.
I'VE ALREADY RULED OUT BRAINIAC AND LUTHOR--THIS ISN'T THEIR STYLE!
LORD SATANUS? DON'T THINK SO... IF THIS WERE SORCERY, I COULDN'T HAVE SHATTERED THAT FORCE-FIELD!
SUPERMAN!
TELEPATHY? SOMEONE'S CALLING ME!
GOOD. MAYBE I CAN GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.
WE WANT YOU, SUPERMAN!
YOU'RE THE CAUSE OF THE MADNESS INFECTING METROPOLIS!
FOLLOW MY DIRECTIONS... LISTEN TO US AND ALL WILL BECOME CLEAR!
WHOEVER YOU ARE, IT'S YOUR PROVERBIAL DIME. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
PAL, YOU AND I HAVE A DATE...
...BUT IT'S ONE YOU MAY NOT LIKE!
8

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

...LANA LANG WITH LIVE COVERAGE OF THE MAYOR'S EMERGENCY PRESS COMPERENCE...
YES, DAN, WE'VE CALLED WASHINGTON AND THEY'VE PROMISED TO SEND THE MARINES...
...BUT THIS PROBLEM IS BIGGER THAN ALL OF US!
PERHAPS, THEN, I CAN HELP...
...SEEING THAT I AM PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE!
WHAT? SEEMINGLY FROM NOWHERE, A VOICE CLAIMING CREDIT FOR THE NIGHTMARE INFLICTING METROPOLIS!
WAIT, I SEE SOMEONE NOW... SOARING INTO VIEW ON AN IMPOSSIBLY SMALL FLYING PLATFORM!
IT'S MANDAL SAVAGE!
I BELIEVE IT'S IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO LET ME TRY TO HELP!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE?
IN A SAD WAY I AM...
AS YOU KNOW, MY COMPANY, ABRAXAS INCORPORATED, IS INVOLVED WITH HIGHLY TECHNOLOGICAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.
MY SCIENTISTS HAD MONITORED A BIZARRE TIME-FLUX DUE TO UNPRECEDENTED SOLAR ACTIVITY.
THIS TIME-FLUX, CENTERED, LUCKILY, IN METROPOLIS PARK, WAS CAUSING A REVERSE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS...
SIMPLY PUT, THAT MEANS TIME WAS RUNNING BACKWARD!
9

IN SHORT, WE DISCOVERED METROPOLIS PARK HAD BECOME A PREHISTORIC JUNGLE...
...A JUNGLE THAT WOULD SPREAD AND INUNDATE ALL METROPOLIS UNLESS SOMETHING WERE QUICKLY DONE!
THERE WAS NO TIME TO CALL OFFICIALS. NO TIME TO EXPLAIN WHAT ABRAXAS, INC. WAS ABOUT TO DO.
WE MANAGED TO CONTAIN THE TIME-REVERSAL UNDER A FORCE-FIELD. OUR FAIR CITY WAS SAVED
BUT SUPERMAN, IN HIS ZEALOUS HASTE, SHATTERED MY FORCE-FIELD AND THEREBY CAUSED THE DESTRUCTION OF METROPOLIS!
WE COULD HAVE CONTROLLED TIME. DINOSAURS WOULD HAVE BEEN REBORN UNDER MY SHIELDS...
WHEN THEY DIED, FOSSIL FUEL WOULD HAVE FORMED... THE FIRST SUCH FUEL SINCE PREHISTORIC TIMES.
AMERICA COULD HAVE BECOME ENERGY SUFFICIENT ONCE AGAIN. BUT NO LONGER... THANKS TO SUPERMAN!
MR SAVAGE, WHY WOULD HE DO THAT? HE'S ALWAYS BEEN OUR HERO!
WHO KNOWS WHY AN ALIEN INTELLIGENCE DOES ANYTHING? THEY DON'T THINK LIKE WE DO.
I AM SORRY, BUT I...I TRIED TO HELP.
THAT CRUMMY LIAR! HE'S GOT THEM EATING OUT OF HIS HAND.
NOW YOU UNDERSTAND THE EXIGENCY, ANIMAL MAN!

TROUBLE IS, SUPERMAN CAN'T SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT!
NOT UNTIL AFTER HE DOES WHAT WE TOLD HIM TO DO.
STILL, SUPERMAN DOESN'T NEED DEFENDING. HE NEEDS OUR HELP.
WE'VE GOT TO DESTROY THE TIME PYRAMIDS!
YEAH, I KNOW. HOW'D A JERK LIKE SAVAGE BUILD THEM ANYWAY?
HE DIDN'T, ANIMAL MAN... BUT THAT IS A PROBLEM FOR ANOTHER TIME.
NOW, YOU ALL HAVE SPECIAL ABILITIES-- HERE IS HOW YOU WILL LOSE THEM.
MEANWHILE, NINETY MILLION MILES FROM EARTH...
I STILL DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT, BUT MY MICROSCOPIC VISION CONFIRMED WHAT THE IMMORTAL MAN "TOLD" ME!
I AM THE ONE WHO SPREAD THOSE TIME SPORES...
...AND THE ONLY WAY TO REMOVE THEM IS TO BURN THEM OFF IN THE HEAT OF OUR SUN!
...ASSUMING THEY CAN BE BURNED AWAY!

EARTH - THE BLUE BAHAMAS WATERS:
DANE... WHY DO THEY... HUNT US?
WHAT HAVE... WE DONE... WRONG?
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, DOLPHIN.
IT'S JUST THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CAN BE SOMEWHAT THICKHEADED AT TIMES...
...ESPECIALLY WHEN IT CONCERNS NATIONAL SECURITY.
WE'RE OUT TO DESTROY THOSE TEMPLES..
...AND FOR SOME REASON THEY WANT TO SAVE THEM!
ONLY IF METROPOLIS AND EVENTUALLY THE WORLD ARE TO SURVIVE--
--WE HAD BETTER BE THE ONES TO SUCCEED!
SIR, THEY REFUSE TO RESPOND TO OUR RADIO SIGNAL.
WE HAVE OUR ORDERS.
AS MUCH AS I HATE IT -- WE'VE GOT TO BLOW THEM OUT OF THE SEA!
OPEN FIRE!
NOW, [illegible] DOLPHIN! ABANDON YOUR SHIP -- NOW!
DON'T HAVE TO ORDER ME TWICE, IMMORTAL MAN!
KRA-BOOOOOM!
12

AMAZING HOW SHE BREATHES UNDERWATER. WHO IS SHE? WHERE DID SHE COME FROM?
IN ALL THE SEA DEVILS' EXPLORATIONS, WE'VE NEVER FOUND ANYONE QUITE LIKE HER...
...NOT EVEN THE PEOPLE FROM ATLANTIS.
:UH-OH: DIVERS!
THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAYING FOR KEEPS!
BLAST! WHAT IS IT ABOUT THOSE PYRAMIDS? WHO PUT THEM THERE?
WHY WOULD THE GOVERNMENT KILL TO PROTECT THEM?
DOLPHIN! SHE'S BEEN HIT!
NOW SHE'S DIVING RIGHT AT THEM... I'VE NEVER SEEN HER LOOK SO ANGRY BEFORE!
GOOD GRIEF! SHE TOSSED THEM OUT OF THE WATER LIKE THEY WERE RAG DOLLS! I--I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS THAT POWERFUL!
13

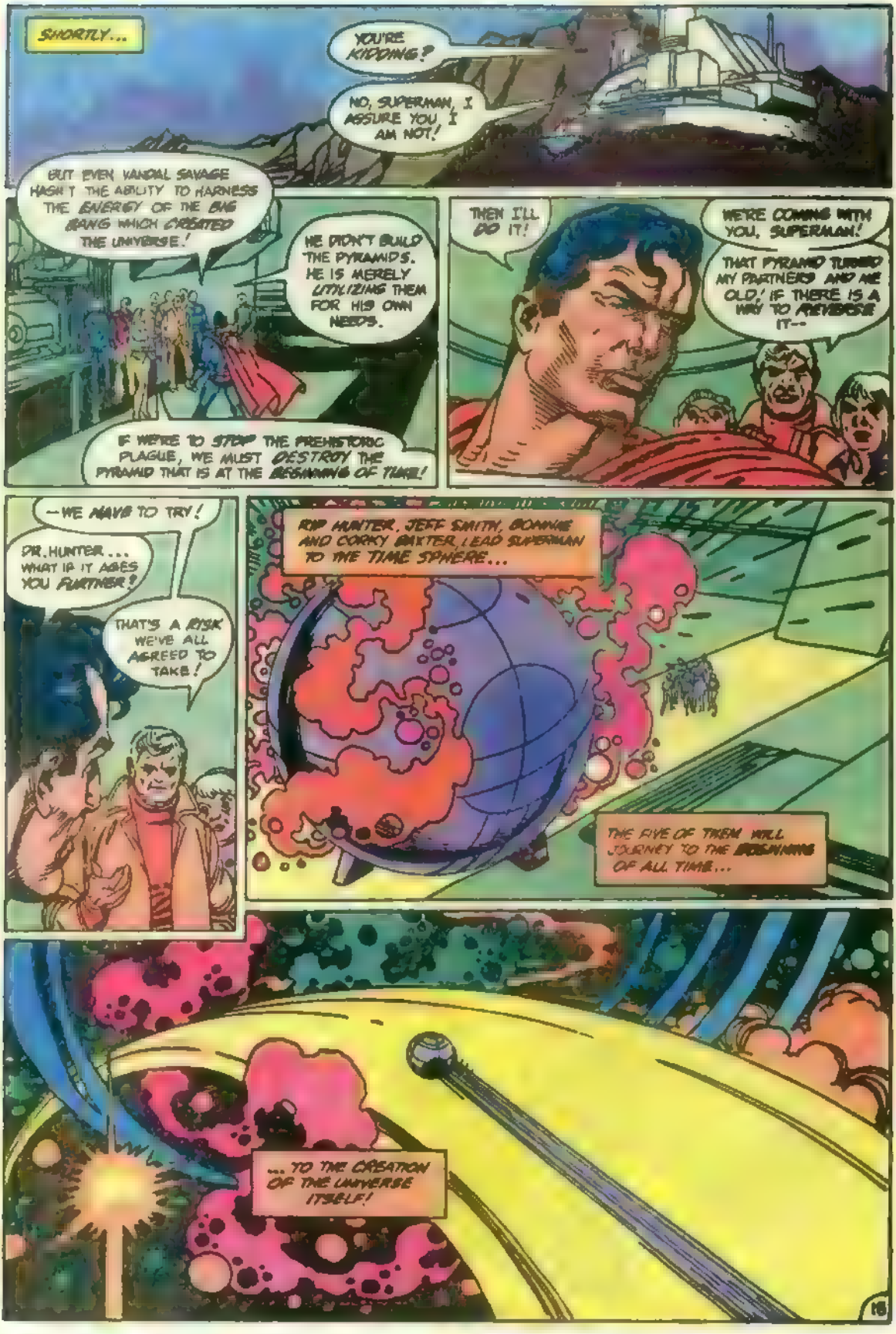
SPLOOOSHHH!
WHAT'S HER SECRET?
WHO IS SHE? WHERE DOES DOLPHIN COME FROM!?!?
AFRICA:
HAD TO MAKE THE TRANSATLANTIC CHANGE INTO CONGORILLA...
...OTHERWISE THEY'D NEVER HAVE LET ME BACK HERE.
ONLY IN THIS APE BODY DO I HAVE THE ABILITY TO MOVE ABOUT IN TOTAL FREEDOM.
OKAY, HERE I AM AND READY TO DO SOMETHING.
ALREADY KNOCKED OUT ONE GUARD... LET'S HOPE I DON'T HAVE TO USE MY BRUTE STRENGTH ON ANY OTHERS.
WELL, WELL, WELL. WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
FOR A TEMPLE THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD, I'D SAY IT'S PRETTY ADVANCED!
14

CHMOOOM!
SECOND GUARD DOWN. THIS MISSION'S EASY AS CAKE.
DON'T BECOME COCKY, MR. FLAGG. I WILL GUIDE YOU.
I CAN'T HELP YOU HERE, MR. FLAGG. BE RESOURCEFUL.
GREAT SCOTT!
I'M A PROFESSIONAL, IMMORTAL MAN. I DON'T GET COCKY, AS YOU PUT IT--
I'VE FACED THESE SORTS OF ASSETS BEFORE, IMMORTAL MAN.
AND I CAME PREPARED FOR THIS ONE.
THERE'S ARSENIC CONCENTRATED GAS IN THESE BULLET CASINGS.
FIVE SECONDS AFTER THEY PENETRATE ITS SKIN, IT'LL BE OUT LIKE A USED LIGHTBULB!
NOW, MR. FLAGG. TO THE MAIN COMPLEX!

BRAZIL:
YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW, BUDDY --
--THIS IS THE BIG ADOOM SO I'M HERE. NOW WHAT?
FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS. SIT AT THE COMPUTER COMPLEX AND WE SHALL LEARN HOW VANDAL SAVAGE HAS TRAPPED INTO THESE PYRAMIDS.
STOP RIGHT THERE, MISTER!
GREAT! JUST LIKE WAR GAMES!
PEEDS! THIS IS JUST LIKE THAT MOVIE!
WELL, PALS, IT'S NOT EASY FIGHTIN' A GUY WHO CAN USE THE ABILITIES OF ANY NEARBY ANIMAL.
I'VE GOT THE STRENGTH OF A JAGUAR, AS WELL AS ITS SPEED
WOW!
STOP HIM!
IT'S "LOOK UP IN THE SKY" TIME AGAIN!
AIEE! HE CAN FLY LIKE A BIRD!
MAN, I LOVE BEING A-MAZON!

GENERAL, THE YANKEE, BUDDY BAKER, WAS BACK... AND HE DID SOMETHING WITH THE COMPUTERS.
DID YOU CAPTURE HIM?
NO, SIR, HE GOT AWAY, USING HIS ANIMAL POWERS.
THIS IS BAD. I MUST CHECK WITH OTHER NATIONS WHERE PYRAMIDS ARE LOCATED.
METROPOLIS:
GOT BACK JUST IN TIME!
SPORES ARE ALL BURNED OFF, SO I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SPREADING THE PREHISTORIC PLAGUE...
...WHICH MEANS I CAN JUST CONTAIN THE MENACE THAT'S ALREADY EXISTING.
USED THE TREES TO PLUG UP A VOLCANO BEFORE--
--BUT THEY'RE JUST AS HANDY TO CREATE CAGES AROUND THOSE BEASTS!
SUPERMAN, PLEASE FOLLOW MY THOUGHTS... HURRY!
IMMORTAL MAN--?
WE HAVE TO SPEAK WITH YOU-- AT OUR HEAD-QUARTERS!
17

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOLLOWING

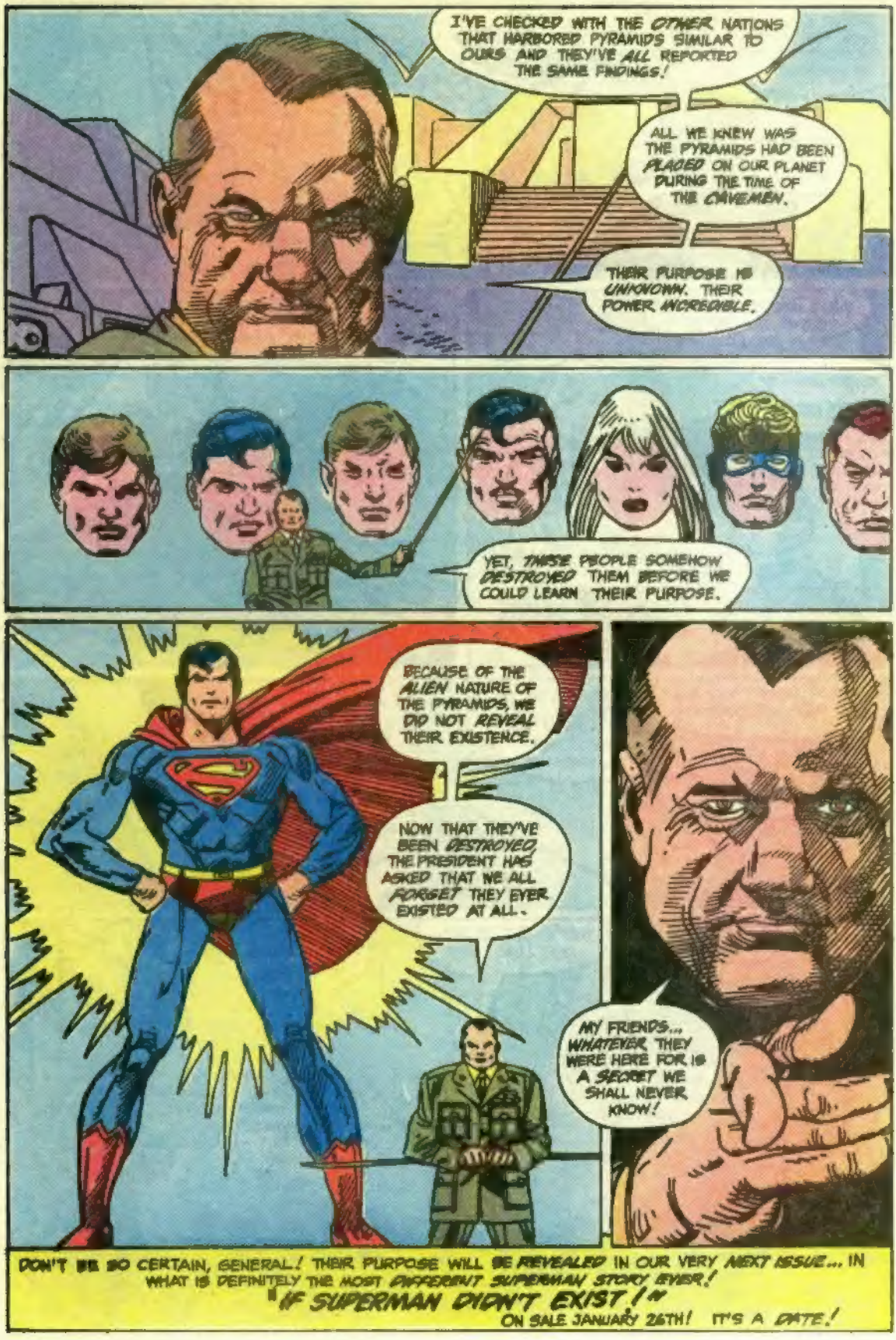

SHORTLY...
YOU'RE KIDDING?
NO, SUPERMAN, I ASSURE YOU I AM NOT!
BUT EVEN VANDAL SAVAGE HASN'T THE ABILITY TO HARNESS THE ENERGY OF THE BIG BANG WHICH CREATED THE UNIVERSE!
HE DIDN'T BUILD THE PYRAMIDS. HE IS MERELY UTILIZING THEM FOR HIS OWN NEEDS.
IF WE'RE TO STOP THE PREHISTORIC PLAGUE, WE MUST DESTROY THE PYRAMID THAT IS AT THE BEGINNING OF TIME!
THEN I'LL DO IT!
WE'RE COMING WITH YOU, SUPERMAN!
THAT PYRAMID TURNED MY PARTNERS AND ME OLD! IF THERE IS A WAY TO REVERSE IT--
--WE HAVE TO TRY!
DR. HUNTER... WHAT IF IT AGES YOU FURTHER?
THAT'S A RISK WE'VE ALL AGREED TO TAKE!
RIP HUNTER, JEFF SMITH, BONNIE AND CORKY BAXTER, LEAD SUPERMAN TO THE TIME SPHERE...
THE FIVE OF THEM WILL JOURNEY TO THE BEGINNING OF ALL TIME...
... TO THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE ITSELF!

SOMETHING WRONG, DR. HUNTER?
JUST SCARED, SUPERMAN. THIS IS WHERE WE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS THE LAST TIME.
THERE WAS LIGHT, TREMENDOUS PRESSURE, THEN--
N-NO! IT'S STARTING NOW! STARTING ALL OVER AGAIN--!
THEY'RE UNCONSCIOUS.
THAT MEANS IT'S UP TO ME!
THE TIME PYRAMID IS SOMEWHERE IN THAT BLINDING LIGHT.
PROBLEM IS, CAN I REACH IT? THE FORCE IS TREMENDOUS...
...THE PRESSURE TERRIBLE! THIS IS THE MOMENT... THE BIRTH OF EVERYTHING!
AND THE GRAVITY... IT'S INCREASING! ALL GRAVITY'S CENTERED RIGHT HERE...
...RIGHT AT THIS SPOT... RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT!
I CAN'T LOOK--I MUSTN'T LOOK! THE LIGHT COULD EVEN BLIND ME!

HAVE TO GUIDE MYSELF THROUGH INSTINCT... PUSH MY WAY THROUGH THE PRESSURES.
I...I JUST DON'T KNOW IF I CAN... THE PAIN IS... INCREASING.
INCREASING FASTER THAN I EXPECTED!
GOD!
GOT TO BREAK THROUGH...
NO MATTER THE PAIN... NO MATTER THE AGONY...
I'VE GOT TO BREAK THROUGH!
FEEL THE IMPOSSIBLE ENERGY, THE TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE FORCE!
AND I... SENSE TRANQUILITY INSIDE HERE...
THE CALM IN THE EYE OF THE HURRICANE.
THE MAN OF STEEL SCREAMS AS BARRIER AFTER BARRIER GIVES WAY, AS MACHINERY BUILT IN ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE PULSES WITH ENERGY ALL AROUND HIM...
THEN...
SKRAA-BOOOOMMM!!!

TIME -- THE PRESENT:
CRYOSE -- WHAT IS HAPPENING? EXPLAIN!
SIR, THERE IS POWER-FEEDBACK THE LIKES OF WHICH I'VE NEVER SEEN!
MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY NUCLEAR BOMB KNOWN ON EARTH!
DO SOMETHING!
SIR... I--I CANNOT. THE PYRAMIDS... LOOK AT THE MACHINES...
THE PYRAMIDS NO LONGER EXIST!
THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS:
WHAT? THE TIME-SPHERE'S RETURNED? DID THEY FAIL?
CONGO BILLY-BOY, I LIKE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE!
HURRY, HELP ME GET THEM OUT!
WELL, I'LL BE --
LOOK AT THEM! ALL OF YOU!
I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE -- BUT RIP HUNTER AND HIS FRIENDS --
--ARE YOUNG AGAIN!
21

THEY'VE SUCCEEDED! LOOK HERE! THE PREHISTORIC JUNGLE IS VANISHING!
WHATEVER POWER KEPT IT ALIVE IS GONE!
WHAT...ABOUT SUPERMAN? WHERE... IS HE?
SUPERMAN--?!
GREAT GUNS! HE DIDN'T RETURN WITH RIP HUNTER!
SUPERMAN WAS SUBJECTED TO THE BIG BANG! AS POWERFUL AS HE IS...
...I--I DOUBT THAT EVEN HE COULD HAVE SURVIVED!
MY FRIENDS, WE SAVED METROPOLIS... BUT AT WHAT A COST! WE DESTROYED SUPERMAN!
THE PENTAGON:
THEY'RE ALL GONE-- JUST LIKE THAT!
ONE MOMENT THE PYRAMIDS WERE HERE...
... THE NEXT THEY'VE VANISHED!
22


I'VE CHECKED WITH THE OTHER NATIONS THAT HARBORED PYRAMIDS SIMILAR TO OURS AND THEY'VE ALL REPORTED THE SAME FINDINGS!
ALL WE KNEW WAS THE PYRAMIDS HAD BEEN PLACED ON OUR PLANET DURING THE TIME OF THE CAVEMEN.
THEIR PURPOSE IS UNKNOWN. THEIR POWER, INCREDIBLE.
YET, THESE PEOPLE SOMEHOW DESTROYED THEM BEFORE WE COULD LEARN THEIR PURPOSE.
BECAUSE OF THE ALIEN NATURE OF THE PYRAMIDS, WE DID NOT REVEAL THEIR EXISTENCE.
NOW THAT THEY'VE BEEN DESTROYED, THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED THAT WE ALL FORGET THEY EVER EXISTED AT ALL.
MY FRIENDS... WHATEVER THEY WERE HERE FOR IS A SECRET WE SHALL NEVER KNOW!
DON'T BE SO CERTAIN, GENERAL! THEIR PURPOSE WILL BE REVEALED IN OUR VERY NEXT ISSUE... IN WHAT IS DEFINITELY THE MOST DIFFERENT SUPERMAN STORY EVER!
"IF SUPERMAN DIDN'T EXIST!"
ON SALE JANUARY 26TH! IT'S A DATE!